difficult areas, rational transfer/posting policies etc. The capacity for pre-service and in-service trainings for critical skills has also been expanded under NRHM to address the availability and retention of key skills at health facilities. The successful implementation of NRHM has reduced absenteeism and improved availability of critical skills. This has accelerated the progress towards achievement of MDGs aimed at reducing child and maternal mortality.

Credit facility for medical treatment

1323.SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are extended credit facility when they get treatment in the private hospitals on the Government panel;

(b) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has recently allowed its employees to get the required treatment from any private hospital on the panel of the State Government without getting referred from the dispensary/ Government hospital/the concerned department; and

(c) if so, does Government proposes to extend these facilities to the employees of all the Ministries/departments of Central Government in order to decongest the Government hospitals and bring uniformity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is the prerogative of each State Government to take decision regarding conditions of service of its employees and facilities to be made available to them, which the Central Government is not liable to adopt.

(c) No, Sir.

Post graduate medical education facilities

1324.SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MBBS doctors are finding it very difficulty to join post graduate courses in various disciplines of medicine due to very few post graduate/post doctoral medical colleges available in the country;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of the number of medical colleges which impart post doctoral courses such as MS, MD, etc. in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) At present, approximately 11,600 seats are available in different postgraduate courses for approximately 23000 MBBS students passed out from various medical